implementations of Immigrations Act 1990 by the US Government;

(d) what are the implecations of this Act of US Government over Indian software exports; and

(e) what is the reaction of Government to meet this serious situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The total export of computer software and services during the year 1992-93 was Rs. 800 crores.

(b) India has been exporting computer software and services to the following countries and/or regions:—

Countries	Export (Rs. crores) in 1992—93
U.S.A.	400
West Europe	224
West Asia	72
South East Asia	40
Japan	146
Others	48
Total :	800

(c) and (d) On-site-development of software exports to USA will be adversely affected by the implementation of the Immigrations Act 1990 by the Government as software professionals would require to obtain the less flexible and more ocmbersome H-1 B visas.

(e) We have taken up our concerns with the US Government. At the same time, we are also improving our high speed data connectivity so as to reduce our dependence on on-site-development for software exports.

(SOURCE: For the Export Figures: Electronic and Computer Software Export Promotion Council)

Opening of Textile Markets

1402. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether E.C. and the USA enlisting Japan's support have asked Government of India to open up its textiles markets to imports and have laid down certain conditions;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what are the implications involved therein; and

(d) what is the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (d) In the course of negotiations on textiles in the Uruguay Round, requests for market access on textiles items have been made by the principal industrialized countries.

Provision of market access would imply the removal of quantitative restrictions on imports of those textile items to which market access might be granted.

India's response to the requests has been that the ability to consider these requests would be contingent on very substantial improvement in market access for Indian textiles and garments and also on improvement in the balance of payments situation.

Dunkel text established under GATT

1403. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have furnished data pertaining to annexure 2 of the tables of the "Agreement on Modalities for the establishment of specific Binding commitments under the reform programme" to

part L of the "Text on Agriculture" of the Dunkel text established under GATT;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) Government has furnished a preliminary List of Commitments and the supporting material in accordance with the Agricultural Text in Draft Final Act.

In the area of domestic support calculations have been made for non-product-specific and product-specific support for the reference period 1986—88. Non-Product specific support comprising of non-exempt subsidies, namely fertilizers, credit, irrigation, electricity and seeds has been calculated to be less than six per cent of value of agricultural production. Product-specific support is negative in respect of 14 out of 17 products for which calculations have been made. For three products, namely, groundnut, tobacco and sugarcane the level of support is positive but less than 10 per cent. As developing countries are not expected to undertake any reduction commitments in respect of domestic support below 10 per cent, no commitments have been made.

Since India does not maintain any export subsidies within the meaning of Draft Text of Agriculture, no commitments in this regard have been undertaken.

On market access, India has indicated ceiling bindings on tariff rates for agricultural items generally at 100 per cent for primary products, 150 per cent for processed products and 300 per cent for edible oils. Since India maitains quantitative restrictions for balance-of-payment reasons, no commitments have been undertaken on minimum market access.

Operations of Public Distribution System are considered to be consumer subsidies, which are exempt from GATT discipline, and hence no commitments have been undertaken.

Delay in payment under International Price Reimbursement Scheme

1404. SHRI SHIVAJIRAO G. PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as claimed by the Engineering Export Promotion Council, there is an inordinate delay in payment under the International Price Reimbursement Scheme; and

(b) if so, what are the corrective steps Government propose to take in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) IPRS payments are intended to compensate the exporters for the higher price of domestic steel compared to the international price of steel. Such payments are financed out of a Cess levied on major steel producers in the country. On account of inadequate receipts through the cess, some delay has occured in settlement of IPRS claims of exporters of Engineering Goods for Exports effected during 1992-93.

(b) Government has recently released a special grant of Rs. 75 crores from Budgetary sources to bridge the gap. Some other possibilities are also being examined to make up the difference in cost of steel for the Exporters.

हाई वोल्टेज परीक्षण सुविधा का आरम्भ किया जाना

1405. **श्री शांति त्यागी** : क्या **प्रधान मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि गाजियाबाद स्थित राष्ट्रीय परीक्षण गृह में अब हाई वोल्टेज परीक्षण सुविधा उपलब्ध करा दी गई है ; और